MARVEL

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LGY#871

SPENCER
VICENTINI
SINCLAIR

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

PRELUDE TO SINISTER WAR

David Anthony Kraft

1952 - 2021

THE DEFENDERS
MARVEL® COMICS GROUP
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THE DEFENDERS
HE IS PAIN-- HE IS POWER-- HE IS THE PRESENCE!
PLUS: THE ORIGIN OF THE RED GUARDIAN!

“A bon vivant and raconteur extraordinaire”

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

LOOK, I'M NOT GONNA LIE.

THINGS AREN'T EXACTLY LOOKING UP.

I HAVE BAD GUYS ON THE LOOSE EVERYWHERE AROUND ME. MY ROOMMATE BETRAYED ME AND I JUST LOST ANOTHER JOB.

BUT SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO TAKE COMFORT IN THE *LITTLE* THINGS. LIKE THIS MORNING, SOMEHOW NOTHING CAME UP, AND MIRACULOUSLY I'M ACTUALLY *EARLY* TO--

--CLASS.

OH NO. THE DOOR TO THE LAB--

DOC? CURT?

PETER...

DOC! WHAT--WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S *GONE*, PETER.

YEARS OF TRYING TO FIND A WAY. NOW IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED--

"--AND IT'S *ALL MY FAULT.*"

THE NIGHT BEFORE.

THE WORK IS NEARLY COMPLETE. READY TO BEGIN HUMAN TRIALS. OR...*SOMETIMES* HUMAN, I SUPPOSE.

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO UPGRADE THE CAPABILITIES OF THE *ISOTOPE-GENOME ACCELERATOR* FOR *MONTHS* NOW--

--EVER SINCE I FIRST RETURNED TO *EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.*

THE ACCELERATOR HOLDS ENORMOUS PROMISE AS A MEANS TO ISOLATE AND SEPARATE, FROM A HOST, UNWANTED...*ILLNESSES* OF ALL TYPES. BUT SO FAR, ITS RESULTS HAVE BEEN MIXED.

AT LEAST SO FAR AS I CAN TELL.

BUT RECENT BREAKTHROUGHS LEAVE ME ON THE CUSP OF SOMETHING GREAT.

SOMETHING THAT CAN *CHANGE LIVES.*

OF COURSE, I HAVE *OBLIGATIONS* HERE. TO THE UNIVERSITY, TO THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. BUT I CAN'T HELP THINKING ABOUT WHAT THIS WILL MEAN FOR MY FAMILY.

AND FOR *ME.*

CURT CONNORS. IF YOU NEVER HAD MY FRIENDSHIP...

...AT LEAST NOW YOU HAVE MY *RESPECT.*

OTTO OCTAVIUS!

DOCTOR OCTOPUS WILL SUFFICE. I TRUST MY COLLEAGUES NEED NO INTRODUCTION.

THOUGH *ONE* OF THEM SEEMS TO BE EAGER TO *MAKE* ONE.

SNIFF-SNIFF

OTTO, WHATEVER YOU'RE AFTER--WHATEVER YOU'RE PLANNING TO *DO*--

ME? I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING, PROFESSOR.

I'M ONLY HERE TO BEAR WITNESS.

IS THAT SO? WELL--

--WITNESS THIS.

TSSH

KAFF NOW, NOW, CURT...

...WE MUSTN'T RUN FROM OUR *AMBITIONS.*

YES... JUST LOOK AT *THIS*--THE JOY OF DISCOVERY. THE MOMENT OF YOUR *TRIUMPH.*

COME ACCEPT YOUR *REWARD.*

OCTAVIUS, *LISTEN* TO ME--YOU DON'T WANT TO *DO* THIS!

HH. PERHAPS YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT *YOU* DO. YOUR GREATEST WISH--TO BE FREE.

IT'S NOT HOW YOU IMAGINED IT THOUGH, IS IT?

NO-- *STOP!*

HOW DELIGHTFULLY *FAUSTIAN.*

WH-WHAT HAPPENED?

NO.

PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and gained the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a SPIDER, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "SPIDER-SENSE"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

The Amazing SPIDER-MAN

Prelude to SINISTER WAR

Grad school was always a challenge for Peter, but it pales in comparison with the mysterious and powerful villain named Kindred who could have easily killed Spider-Man. Kindred exhumed the bodies of everyone Spider-Man lost to teach Peter a lesson, and it was only through an extraordinary intervention by Norman Osborn that Peter and his girlfriend Mary Jane were saved. Why did Norman help? He had just figured out that Kindred was actually his son Harry and hoped to save Harry from himself. NYPD CSI Carlie Cooper examined the exhumed bodies and made a startling discovery. Before she could alert Spider-Man, she was kidnapped by Kindred and thrown into a prison cell with none other than...Harry Osborn?!

Meanwhile, many of Spider-Man's other foes have been gathering in the wings...which never bodes well for Spider-Man. Sure would be nice to just be a normal grad student...

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POOR CURT-- HE DOESN'T DESERVE *ANY* OF THIS--

--EVEN IF HE *THINKS* HE DOES.

MY FAULT. I DID THIS.

I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT MORE ABOUT THE RISKS.

NOW I'VE LET THE MONSTER LOOSE ON THE *WORLD*.

THE MONSTERS ARE ALREADY OUT THERE, DOC. YOU LET *ME* WORRY ABOUT THEM--

--WHILE *YOU* GET BACK TO YOUR FAMILY.

CURT?! WE WERE SO WORRIED!

PETER... YOU HAVE TO TELL SPIDER-MAN-- HE HAS TO FIND *THE LIZARD!*

THWIP

AND THAT'S JUST WHAT I'M *GONNA* DO.

BUT IF THE *SINISTER SIX* IS BACK IN ACTION, THAT'S ONLY THE START OF MY PROBLEM.

I NEED TO MOVE FAST. AND I NEED--

ANSWERS.

I NEED ANSWERS, AND I NEED 'EM FAST.

AVENGERS MANSION.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, MS. WATSON. I WISH I COULD BE OF MORE HELP--

--BUT CARLIE COOPER'S WHEREABOUTS ARE A *MYSTERY* TO ME.

"OF COURSE, WHEN SHE WAS ABSENT FROM OUR *LOOKUPS* MEETINGS, I REACHED OUT...

"...AND RECEIVED A SOMEWHAT *TERSE* TEXT MESSAGE BACK, SAYING SHE'D HAD TO LEAVE TOWN VERY SUDDENLY."

SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT ISN'T EXACTLY ON THE *UP-AND-UP.*

IT'S THE SAME STORY EVERYWHERE I GO. HAS BEEN--

--EVER SINCE *OVERDRIVE* (USUALLY A BAD GUY) TRIED TO WARN ME THAT SOMETHING MAY HAVE HAPPENED TO CARLIE.

SO I STARTED ASKING AROUND.

HER LANDLORD--

--HER CO-WORKERS--

--HER SUPPORT STRUCTURE.

NOW I'M *CONVINCED*. MY FRIEND IS IN SOME REAL DANGER. I HAVE TO *FIND* HER. TROUBLE IS--

--I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO EVEN *LOOK*.

AS SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN HERE A WHILE, I DON'T EXPECT ANYONE TO FIND US ANYTIME SOON, CARLIE.

MIGHT AS WELL KEEP EACH OTHER COMPANY IN THE MEANTIME.

HOW'S THIS FOR A CONVERSATION STARTER--HOW DID YOU EVEN END UP HERE? MAYBE IF WE COMPARE NOTES...

SURE, I'LL BITE. BUT YOU FIRST, HARRY-- SOMETHING TELLS ME *YOUR* STORY'S A LOT MORE *INTERESTING.*

IT'S ALL MY FAULT.

"I FINALLY HAD EVERYTHING I'D EVER DREAMED OF.

"A NEW LIFE. A NEW *FAMILY.*

"BUT THE OLD ONE JUST WOULDN'T *LET GO* OF ME.

"SOME OLD, DORMANT *OSCORP* ACCOUNTS SUDDENLY STARTED UP AGAIN, WITH ALL KINDS OF STRANGE TRANSACTIONS.

"WHICH LED ME TO ONE OF MY FATHER'S EUROPEAN REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS WITH A TORTURED HISTORY OF ITS OWN.

"OF COURSE, I NEVER EVEN MADE IT TO THE FRONT GATE BEFORE *HE* SHOWED UP.

"CALLS HIMSELF *KINDRED.*

"HE'S THE ONE WHO STUCK ME IN THIS CELL *MONTHS* AGO."

SAME AS YOU.

YOUR TURN, COOPER.

GO ON, CARLIE--TELL HIM THE STORY.

JUST MAKE SURE TO LEAVE OUT SOME KEY DETAILS FOR THE TIME BEING...

YOU WERE AT THE MORGUE, EXAMINING THE BODIES THIS *KINDRED* GUY EXHUMED, WHEN YOU REALIZED SOMETHING WASN'T RIGHT.*

*BACK IN ASM #56! --NL

THERE WAS AN *EXTRA* BODY. AND WHEN YOU PULLED THE SHEET BACK...

...THERE LAY *HARRY OSBORN.*

THE SAME MAN SITTING NEXT TO YOU *NOW.*

YEAH, PROBABLY BEST TO KEEP THAT *QUIET* FOR NOW--

--I MEAN SOMEONE HAS TO FIND US *EVENTUALLY*, RIGHT?

♫ FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FEL-ON, ♫ FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FEL-ON ♫

WELL, WELL, WELL, IF IT ISN'T OUR OLD TEAMMATE ***OVERDRIVE***. COME CRAWLIN' BACK NOW THAT YOU HEARD ABOUT BOOMERANG'S ***BIG WIN*** AGAINST SPIDER-MAN?

BEST YOU CHANGE LANES, ***SPEED DEMON***--

--I'M HERE TO TALK TO THE MAN OF THE HOUR.

IZZAT SO? HEARD YOU WAS A ***GOOD GUY*** NOW? YOU TRYNNA BRING ME IN?

HARDLY. WE BETTER SWITCH THAT BOOZE FOR ***COFFEE***, FRED--

--I WANNA OFFER YOU A ***JOB***.

NOTHING...

HOURS OF SCOURING THE CITY AND NOTHING.

NO SIGN OF OCK AND HIS NEW CRONIES, WHICH SHOULD COME AS A RELIEF--

--BUT ALL I FEEL IS DREAD.

STOP KIDDING YOURSELF, PARKER. YOU KNOW WHERE ALL THIS COMES FROM.

YOU KNOW WHO'S REALLY BEHIND IT.

WAIT HERE.

AND YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT LEADS.

YOU'VE DONE GOOD, OTTO.

I SEE THE GANG'S ALL HERE. WELL--

--ALL EXCEPT FOR *ONE.*

I GROW TIRED OF YOUR *GAMES,* DEMON. I HAVE DONE AS YOU ASKED. YOU PROMISED ME ANSWERS ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN *TAKEN* FROM ME.

IN TIME, DOC. IN TIME.

BESIDES, OUR BARGAIN'S NOT *MET* YET. I TOLD YOU THAT YOU COULD PICK YOUR FIVE, BUT THE SIXTH WAS *MINE* TO CHOOSE.

AND I HAVE THE PERFECT CASTING IN MIND.

THE POOR IDIOT. HE THINKS HE'S FINALLY FREE. THAT IT'S ALL *OVER.*

HE OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW--

"--THE SHOW MUST GO ON."

IT'S *TIME* NOW, PETE. NO MORE WAITING.

ALL THE PLAYERS ARE *FINALLY* IN PLACE. AND THEY'RE ALL *LOOKING* FOR SOMETHING.

SOME WANT *REVENGE.*

SOME JUST WANT TO MAKE A *NAME* FOR THEMSELVES.

OTHERS ARE LOOKING FOR *REDEMPTION.*

WHILE ANOTHER IS LOOKING FOR *BLOOD.*

AND *ANSWERS?* WELL, WE'RE *ALL* LOOKING FOR THOSE, AREN'T WE?

BUT WE MAY NOT LIKE WHAT WE FIND WHEN WE *GET* THEM.

BECAUSE UNDER THE MYSTERIES AND THE LIES, THERE MIGHT BE SOMETHING LURKING THAT'S MUCH MORE...

...SINISTER.

TO BE CONTINUED IN SINISTER WAR #1!

NEXT:

SINISTER WAR #1

THEN:

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #71

Let us know how we're doing!
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Be sure to mark it "Okay to print"!

ZONE